

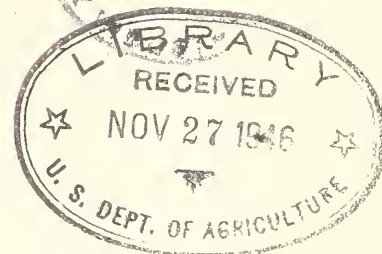
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STEM RUST AND BARBERRY NEWS

Issued by
Office of Barberry Eradication



Volume I

Number 1

May 15, 1930

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Bureau of Plant Industry
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THE OFFICE OF BARBERRY ERADICATION

The field organization of the Office of Barberry Eradication is now practically complete. As stated at the recent conference, the 13 States in the eradication area have been divided into two regions, the Eastern and the Western.

The Eastern Region will include Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin, and will be given personal attention by Mr. W. L. Popham from an office which will later be established at a convenient point. In this area an Agent in Charge of a field office of Barberry Eradication will be maintained in each State in cooperation with the State Department of Agriculture, the college of agriculture, experiment station, and extension service.

In the Western Region the field force will receive assistance from Mr. D. G. Fletcher whose headquarters for this summer will be in Minneapolis at 300 Lewis Building, with the Conference for the Prevention of Grain Rust. Individual field offices will be maintained in Iowa and Minnesota. District No. 1 includes Montana, North Dakota, and northeastern Wyoming, and the field office will be located at Fargo, North Dakota. South Dakota and eastern Nebraska will be considered as District No. 2 with the field office at Brookings, South Dakota. Colorado, western Nebraska, and the remainder of Wyoming comprise District No. 3 with the field office at Ft. Collins, Colorado.

With the recent appointments of Mr. Donald R. Shepherd as Agent in Charge of the office in Iowa and Mr. F. B. Powers as Agent in Charge of the work in Michigan, provision has been made for supervision of all the field offices. As a result of arrangements for exchange of copies of correspondence, the Washington Office and the two regional offices will be in a position to render prompt service to the field staff. The above-outlined plans for arrangement of some of the Western States into Districts is made in the interest of efficiency in the work. Among the expected advantages are reduction of overhead expense, more complete utilization of the time of field men, increased mobility of funds and personnel, opportunity to take advantage of actual crop and topographical areas, efficient use of road and rail connections and correlation of efforts and work on the problem irrespective of State lines in areas of escaped bushes. Development of our program in these Districts as in the remainder of the eradication area will be accompanied by plans for close working relationship with our cooperators in the States.

Field work will be supported by a continuation of the studies on epidemiology, classification of barberry and other alternate hosts of stem rust, and ecology of the barberry. Dr. E. C. Stakman will continue as leader in these research projects. The work on barberry classification is in the hands of Mr. B. Y. Morrison of the Office of Foreign Plant Introduction. Under a cooperative agreement between this office and the Office of Blister Rust Control a research program is under way on chemical methods of eradication. This research work, designed to develop improved methods of killing barberries, is under the immediate leadership of Mr. H. R. Offord.

As the new unit enters its first field season I wish to thank our many friends in the Office of Cereal Crops and Diseases and among our co-operators for the assistance given us with our plans. Field work is now under way and judging from the interesting letters which come in daily, we have a good season ahead of us.

F. C. Meier.

Current G. A. O. Decisions

The following gives in substance recent rulings of the General Accounting Office. If a more elaborate discussion of these points is desired, you should refer to complete copies of these recently sent you.

(A-29776)

9 Comp. Gen. p. 366

TRAVELING EXPENSES - MEALS FURNISHED BY ANOTHER GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE

The per diem in lieu of subsistence allowance of an employee of the Government who, when traveling on official business, is furnished without charge a meal as the guest of another Government employee, is required by paragraph 47 (c) of the Standardized Government Travel Regulations to be reduced one-fifth for each meal so furnished.

(A-29831)

9 Comp. Gen. p. 363

TRAVELING EXPENSES - MEALS OR LODGINGS FURNISHED BY MEMBER OF FAMILY

The term "family" as used in paragraph 47 (c) of the Standardized Government Travel Regulations contemplates any person related to the employee by consanguinity or marriage.

The term "dependent" as used in paragraph 47 (c) of the Standardized Government Travel Regulations means dependent in fact on the employee for any support, even though having other means of adequate support.

Where an employee of the Government in a travel status is furnished meals or lodgings by a member of his family, by another Government employee, or by a member of another Government employee's family, without charge,

reimbursement therefor is not authorized under any circumstances, either on an actual expense basis or a per diem in lieu of subsistence basis.

Where an employee of the Government in a travel status is furnished meals or lodgings by a member of his family, by another Government employee, or by a member of another Government employee's family, with charge, in order to authorize reimbursement therefor it must be shown: first, that the subsistence was not procured because of such personal or official relationship; second, that it was impracticable to secure the subsistence elsewhere; third, that the person furnishing the subsistence was not dependent on the traveler for support. In the absence of such evidence an employee on an actual expense basis is entitled, within the prescribed limit for actual expenses, only to the other authorized subsistence expenses incurred, and an employee on a per diem allowance basis is entitled to one-fifth less for each meal or lodging so furnished with charge.

(A-30075)

9 Comp. Gen. p. 359

TRAVELING EXPENSES - DUTY ENROUTE TO FIRST DUTY STATION

When an employee is directed to perform duty in Washington, or elsewhere, in connection with and incident to the work at the regular duty station for which appointed, he is entitled to salary and subsistence during the period he is performing such duty away from his regular post of duty, but he is not relieved from the obligation of bearing the expense of reporting to his regular duty station; i. e., such expense as the employee would have been required to bear if no stop-over had been required to perform duty en route.

(A-30312)

9 Comp. Gen. p. 339

CONTRACT - MISTAKE IN BID - WITHDRAWAL - CORRECTION

To authorize the correction or withdrawal of a bid before acceptance on the basis of a mistake alleged after the opening of bids, the evidence of mistake must be such as to show conclusively that a mistake was made, in what it consists, and how it occurred, requiring the immediate presentation of such convincing proof of the existence and character of the error as to leave no room for doubt that there was in fact a bona fide mistake in the bid sought to be corrected or withdrawn and to remove any reasonable suspicion that the claim of error is for the purpose of obtaining some undue advantage or of avoiding the consequence of an ill-advised bid.

(A-30326)

9 Comp. Gen. p. 361

CONTRACTS - MISTAKE IN BID - CORRECTION

Where a bid to furnish a number of valves for the Government was accepted and thereafter the bidder urged mistake in submission of the bid in that the prices quoted were based on furnishing a type of valve not in accordance with the specifications, the mistake not being apparent on the face of the bid and the difference between the accepted bid and the other bids submitted not being such as to put the Government contracting officer on notice that a mistake had been made when the offer was accepted with the intention of taking advantage of the mistake, the bid may not be corrected nor is the bidder entitled to be paid any amount in excess of the bid price.

EPIDEMIOLOGY

(Reported by Miss Laura Hamilton)

Mr. Harry G. Ukkelberg was appointed April 1 as an agent in rust-epidemiology studies and is now in Mexico making a rust survey similar to the one he made last year. He traveled south by automobile, making observations en route on barberries in Missouri, and on grains and grasses in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. No stem rust had been found as far south as San Antonio on April 15, although Mr. Ukkelberg stated that he examined volunteer wheat in several places where conditions seemed favorable for overwintering. On March 4, Mr. Hall collected stem rust on wheat at Beeville, Bee County, Texas, but on April 16-17 Mr. Ukkelberg found stem rust on wheat in the station plots at Beeville, with evidence of but little spread. South of Beeville there was stem rust on oats in one center and some at Robstown, Neuces County on wheat.

Leaf rust was found in only one location in Kansas and in a very few places in Oklahoma. In Texas it was not so difficult to find but not all wheat fields were infected. There has been some overwintering of the uredinial stage of leaf rust, but apparently no general spread, except in the case of crown rust of oats, which is generally present in fields between Austin and San Antonio.

During a period of south winds in the week of April 6, Mr. Bills exposed vaselined slides at Urbana. In the same period during south winds, Mr. Ukkelberg exposed slides from his car en route from Kansas to northern Texas. The slides have been examined but no stem-rust spores were found.

The list of susceptible and resistant barberries is being mimeographed and copies will be ready for distribution soon.

EASTERN REGIONOhio - 8 East Broad Street, Columbus. - Harry Atwood

On April 16, Messrs. C. R. Thom, L. L. Shackson, Floyd Davis, and Lloyd Roof began survey operations in the vicinity of Dayton. They report finding escaped barberries along the roadside and upon the limestone cliffs.

During a trip of inspection through the southwestern part of the State no barberry infection was found. Last year pycnia were found at Dayton on April 7.

Mr. Charles O. Violet is busy visiting the nurserymen in the vicinity of Dayton to determine what the situation may be in regard to the propagation and distribution of varieties of barberries known to be susceptible to black stem rust.

Indiana - Agricultural Experiment Station, La Fayette - Wayne E. Leer

An area of escaped bushes near Attica in Fountain County and an area near Freedom in Owen County were examined April 9 and 10. No infection was found, probably due to the very dry weather which prevailed for several weeks preceding that date. The buds on the bushes in both areas were unfolding and fairly large leaves were found on many bushes.

Mr. McCoy, who has been doing educational work in Indiana, continued this work in the high schools. Reports from the various high schools from over the State indicate that his work is being well received. Since many of the high schools close during the last week of April, this work will soon be discontinued.

The detailed plans for the barberry demonstration for the Indiana State Fair have been made and submitted to the Division of Exhibits of the Experiment Station for its approval.

Illinois - Box 72, Post Office Building, Urbana - R. W. Bills

The assistant agent, L. R. Davis, and three field men reported for duty the second week in April. They began the first survey of Franklin County on April 14. Franklin County is in the southern part of the State in the coal mining region.

The Agent in Charge addressed the spring conference of rural and village graded school teachers of LaSalle County on April 4. Literature

was distributed to all of the teachers at that time. LaSalle County has 242 rural schools and 17 village schools, and ranks first in the State in the number of rural schools. Plans have been made to meet the fall institutes of Will and Lake Counties in August. Literature has been mailed to the teachers of Putnam, Winnebago, Kankakee, and Carroll Counties. Plans are under way for presenting the movies and a lecture at the Southern Illinois Teachers' College this spring and during the summer session.

Careful observations are being made for the appearance of rust. Leaf rust has already been reported in Franklin County but no stem rust has been observed to date.

Michigan - Agricultural College, East Lansing - Francis B. Powers
(Reported by George S. McIntyre)

The first reported location checked in Sanilac County proved to be wild gooseberry. The farmer who called us to the area, however, insisted that his grain had been affected by black stem rust. A check of the territory was made and this brought to light a small area of barberry bushes a few miles north of his farm which had probably been responsible for the rust infection. An area on the shore of Lake Michigan in Allegan County was surveyed. This area has developed from the remaining roots of an old hedge which was dug several years ago. This location is being kept in mind for spring work. A check up on reported locations in both Cass and Shiawassee Counties revealed no bushes.

Rust in Michigan has not yet appeared. Spring weather has been unusually late in arriving and the foliage of plants is equally late in appearing.

Wisconsin - State Capitol Annex, Madison - Ralph M. Caldwell

The opening of the spring season, which threatened to be earlier than usual this year, has been delayed and is coming on now on about the normal schedule: Seeding is largely completed in the southern part of the State. Rainfall has been deficient until very recently. Barberry bushes are just beginning to leaf out at the present time.

Plans for the field season are taking shape with the selection of field men to be completed soon. Field work will begin about June 15 in the Black Earth Area.

WESTERN REGIONMinnesota - University Farm, St. Paul - Leonard W. Melander

Field work started on May 1. Conferences with extension workers were held recently and arrangements have been made to again call to the attention of County Agents at the annual district meetings, the offer of a medal to boys and girls for the finding and reporting of common barberry locations. This announcement was given to Mr. T. A. Erikson, Boys' and Girls' club leader, who attended these conferences. Mr. R. C. Rose, Extension Pathologist has suggested getting in touch with County Agents regarding summer crop tours. Barberry eradication will be represented on these tours by the Agent in Charge, the education and publicity man, or the assistant agent. This offers a fine opportunity to make direct contacts with farmers and explain the relation of the common barberry to black stem rust right in the field. It would be fortunate if good rust-spread locations could be found to demonstrate in connection with these tours.

The National Rust Busters' movement is gaining momentum. This office has received a letter accompanied by a constitution for a local organization. Ernest Schmidhuber of Rosemount, Dakota County, has organized the first local chapter in this State outside the schools.

Last fall a tip resulted in the finding of an area of escaped bushes in Anoka County. Glenn Smith, a son of the owner, on hearing about the medal given for finding locations of common barberry, scouted around and found bushes on two near-by properties. He received his medal.

This office received so many applications for positions on barberry work this summer from desirable young men that we were confronted with the problem of selecting the best men. A training class was started for candidates who will be given a competitive examination on rust and barberry. An examination of this kind is one of the surest means of weeding out those men who are more interested in the money they are to receive than in getting rid of common barberries.

Iowa - Box 455, Station A, Ames - D. R. Shepherd
(Reported by Robert C. Cassell)

Eight field men began work on April 18 in Palo Alto County. Previous to the beginning of active field operations, letters were sent to the farmers in the areas where work was to begin acquainting them with the arrival of the field men. Numerous leads have been received from publicity in the county papers.

The assistant agent has been visiting the county superintendents of the 18 counties of the northeastern part of the State. Literature files were distributed to these schools last fall.

District No. 1 - State College Station, Fargo, N. Dak. - G. C. Mayoue

Steps have been taken to introduce the National Rust Busters' Club in North Dakota. After due consideration Barnes County was selected as the first county in which to carry on this work. Before active organization in the county was begun some time was spent with the County Superintendent of Schools, Miss Nell Cooper, and her assistant. Contacts were then made with the more important editors and others of influence whose support would be of material assistance. Through the timely cooperation of Mr. Fletcher and the Conference for the Prevention of Grain Rust, a newspaper cut of the Rust Busters' Club in the county was obtained. This cut, with an appropriate news story, was used in the papers announcing the organization in the county.

This favorable publicity carried with it the stamp of public approval which has materially aided subsequent work with the teachers and pupils in the county. From the cooperation already obtained, it appears that the Rust Busters' Club offers an effective medium of education. It is hoped that this county may be completed in time to allow the organization of this work in another county.

The investigation of a report of common barberry near Anamoose, in the north-central part of the State on an abandoned farmstead, brought to light a 200 foot hedge containing 150 bushes which had been planted approximately 20 years ago and cut down to the ground a couple of times since the beginning of the campaign. Several pictures were taken of the bushes and salting operations. Nearly a half ton of salt was required. According to the stories of old settlers of that community, the bushes were brought from Minnesota by Dan O'Brien, the original owner. A survey of this region will probably reveal a seedling problem for many of the bushes were heavily laden with berries. There was evidence that birds had been feeding on the fruit.

District No. 2 - Box 66, State College Station, Brookings, S. Dak. -
Raymond O. Bulger

Plans for the coming field season are beginning to take form. Eighteen field men consisting of four squads will be employed in Nebraska and a like number in South Dakota. This makes a total of 36 field men in

this district. In addition, assistant agents will be employed in each State to assist in the work of general supervision, and also in carrying on educational and publicity work, as well as rust survey.

No rust infections have been found to date on barberries in this area, although it has been impossible to inspect many barberry plantings in Nebraska so far.

District No. 3 - Agricultural College, Ft. Collins, Colo. - E. A. Lungren

Weather conditions have been ideal for field work in the District this month. Mr. Edward Bodine started work in the field April 1. At that time the barberries were putting out leaves and a check was started upon leads received during the winter as a result of educational work.

Several barberry bushes have been found and eradicated. Some of the leads which we traced down were not barberries. Second survey work was started this week in Douglas County, Colorado, and also a check-up on the escaped areas where barberries were found last year.

The winter wheat is well along and considerable spring grain is being planted.

Personnel Items

Mr. Meier returned to the office on May 9 from a short trip to the office at Columbus and to points in western Ohio.

Mr. W. L. Popham, in charge of the Eastern Area, is spending several days in the Washington Office, having arrived on May 3.

Mr. Donald G. Fletcher, who has charge of the Western Area, arrived in Washington on May 9 for a stay of several days.

There have been several new appointments in the Washington Office. Mrs. Margaret A. Bates, who has charge of the files, reported for duty on April 1. Mr. Arnold Bowers reported for duty on April 1. Mr. Bowers is performing the duties of messenger. Mr. Carl Kanan, property clerk, reported for duty on May 1.

Miss Grace Nyman of the South Dakota Office is assisting Mr. Shepherd, the new Agent in Charge, at Ames Iowa Office for a couple of weeks.

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